

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)
148th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 15-19, 2022, Clear Creek Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 15, 2022

Minute 1 The 2022 Annual Sessions opened with waiting worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk Kent Busse welcomed Friends to the annual sessions, noting the blessing of our being able to be together in person after three years apart as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Minute 3 The Clerk recognized and welcomed two visitors from outside ILYM, Justin Hurdle and Bobby Trice from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Minute 4 Phyllis Reynolds, Clerk of Ministry and Advancement Committee, reported that this year's Harassment Committee consists of herself, Kent Busse, Heather Evert, Brad Laird, and a member at large who has yet to be named. She explained the role of the committee, which will continue to function throughout these sessions and for all ILYM events throughout the coming year.

Minute 5 The Clerk described the role and composition of the Epistle and Exercises Committees. He asked Friends to consider whether they are led to serve on either committee during these annual sessions, and to let him know if they are.

Minute 6 Reading Clerk Pam Kuhn read an epistle from Uganda Friends Church that was produced at the conclusion of their annual conference in November 2021.

Minute 7 Brad Laird offered a report in his role as Field Secretary. He began by thanking a number of officers and other ILYM volunteers for their service in making it possible for us to meet, both in person and virtually, at this time. He noted various joys and challenges stemming from the complications of dealing with the pandemic, and the effects of those on both ILYM meetings and individual Friends. He spoke about our efforts to address the many "isms" with which we live. He reminded Friends that this will be his last year as Field Secretary, and encouraged anyone who might feel led to apply for the position to contact him about what it entails. He promised to assist the next Field Secretary in whatever ways he is asked and able to do.

Brad shared concerns about the short-term viability of some of our meetings, noting that some have ceased to function and that others will likely be laid down in the coming years. Nevertheless, he has found deep worship and fellowship in all our meetings. He believes there is room for additional worship groups in the ILYM area. Expressing his view that the future of North American unprogrammed Friends is not monolingual, Brad suggests we begin to prepare for outreach to Spanish speakers by undertaking to produce an "unofficial" translation of our Faith and Practice, with further steps to follow as we are led. Finally, he asked us to be tender to the many ways that the changes thrust on us by the pandemic require grieving that which we have lost. Report accepted.

Minute 8 Phyllis Reynolds presented the report from Ministry and Advancement. The committee continues to meet by Zoom monthly to report to each other, sharing their experiences with the meetings they visit as well as their own meetings. She echoed Brad's call for expressions of interest in the position of Field Secretary beginning in 2023. Report accepted.

Minute 9 Minutes 1-8 were approved.

Minute 10 Sharon Haworth reported for Nominating Committee in the absence of Clerk Bridget Rorem. The committee submitted the following names for approval, to assume their positions at the rise of this year's annual sessions:

Assistant Clerk: Kevin Brubaker

Assistant Recording Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Reading Clerk: Pam Kuhn

Co-Treasurer: Dawn Crimson

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

Development: Kay Drake

Finance: Cynthia Harris

Ministry & Advancement Committee: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert, Steve Tamari

Ministry & Advancement Committee clerk: Janice Domanik (1 year)

Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning: Christina Schultz, Trevor Brandt, Margie Haworth Davis

Peace Resources: Mark McGinnis (clerk), Jan Mullen, Don Moorman, Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman

Representative to AFSC Corporation Board: Steve Tamari

Representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation: Fariba Murray

Representatives to Friends General Conference: Janice Domanik, Lilith Swygert

Representative to Olney School: Grace Mesner

Sharon also announced that the 2022 Epistle Committee will consist of Pam Kuhn, Lily Robinwhite and a third Friend to be named soon. Nominations approved.

Friends were invited to inform the Nominating Committee if they have candidates to fill any of the many remaining unoccupied positions. The committee expects to present additional nominations on seventh day. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Ted Kuhn reported for Naming Committee. Meredith George has been named to the Nominating Committee. More members are expected to be named later on. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Frank Young reported for Development Committee. Friends are encouraged to look at the new "support pages" (ilym.org/supportingilym/) to view information about opportunities for ensuring and supporting the future of the Yearly Meeting, and to contact Frank if they have any questions or suggestions. The committee expects to send its annual appeal letter asking for individual contributions earlier this year than last, hopefully by October. Individual contributions to ILYM have always been more than what was required, and that continues to be the case. Report accepted.

Minute 13 Janice Domanik reported for Friends General Conference (FGC). The annual gathering of FGC will be virtual again this year, although there will be a smaller in-person event for families with children through high school and Young Adults who are 37 years and younger. The report mentioned the many programs and services FGC provides in addition to the annual gathering. Report accepted.

Minute 14 Bobby Trice reported for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). He outlined and briefly explained FCNL's many current programs and activities. The advance report noted that the annual general committee meeting and lobby visits were held over Zoom once again, with 800

people in attendance. Participants were educated on race issues and introduced to young FCNL fellows. Report accepted.

Minute 15 The Clerk asked Friends to review the material on the Peace Tax Fund in the red binders near the entrance to the meetinghouse in preparation for tomorrow's meeting for business. The Treasurer announced that the red binders also contain an updated financial report.

Minute 16 Minutes 10-15 were approved.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 16, 2022

Minute 17 The day's session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 18 The Clerk recognized and welcomed the following visitors from outside of ILYM: David Eley from Ohio Yearly Meeting and Gretchen Castle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the Earlham School of Religion (ESR). Two Friends from 57th Street Meeting introduced themselves: Lilith Swygert and Olivia Bustion.

Minute 19 Bob Cordova has joined the Epistle Committee. Fariba Murray has joined the Harassment Committee. Previous members of those committees are listed in yesterday's minutes. Committee membership was approved.

Minute 20 Reading Clerk Pam Kuhn read a portion of an epistle entitled "Beautiful Façade or Strong Foundation" from the Swedish Society of Friends, which was produced at the conclusion of their annual conference in May 2021.

Minute 21 The Clerk announced that cooling areas are available, that volunteer assistance is needed for work during these annual sessions, and that at least one other member is needed for Exercises Committee.

Minute 22 Ted Kuhn gave the Treasurer's report, which included updated figures from the month-old report in the Advance Documents. On the whole, the ILYM balance sheet is healthy. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Val Lester presented the report from the Finance Committee. This year the committee funded work on the meetinghouse as well as the ongoing endeavors of the yearly meeting, while working collaboratively with MP&E and Personnel as needs arose. The proposed budget for fiscal 2023 reflects an increase of approximately 11% in expenses, including a 6% increase in salaries for ILYM staff and a 20% increase in expenses for the ILYM campus. Monthly meetings are asked to increase their contributions by 6% for the coming year. The budget will be brought back for approval on seventh day. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Mark McGinnis reported for Peace Resources. The committee is meeting via Zoom once a month. Current activities include trying to contact indigenous people to provide support and supporting monthly meetings who are involved with prison ministry and related matters. It has been working with the ILYM Treasurer to secure the funds and gain access to the Peace Tax Fund account. The committee is planning to expand its role, and is refining the description in the ILYM Handbook to reflect its changing role. Report accepted.

Minute 25 Kent Busse and Mark McGinnis explained the function and current situation regarding the Peace Tax Fund. ILYM co-treasurer Dawn Crimson received notice from Providence Bank that the Peace Tax Fund amount (\$5,843.09) is about to escheat to the State of Illinois as abandoned funds. She asked the bank to give us time to deal with the account. The bank wants the fund to either be managed or liquidated. As a result of further research and discernment, the following minute is recommended:

To prevent more periods of dormancy and potential loss of the funds, it is therefore proposed that ILYM re-authorize users if necessary and direct them to liquidate the Providence account and donate the funds to a cause for peace. In the future Illinois Yearly Meeting could reconsider whether and how to have a peace tax witness.

Recommendation approved.

Various organizations were named as possible beneficiaries of the forthcoming donation(s). The Clerk proposed that Peace Resources Committee consider those and other ideas for recipients of these funds, which are being solicited from Friends attending these sessions, and that Meeting revisit this issue on seventh day. Recommendation approved.

Minute 26 Minutes 17-25 were approved.

Minute 27 Janice Domanik reported for the ad-hoc committee on Anti-Racism. The committee has provided a workshop series; information and opportunities for involvement with Line 3 pipeline resistance work; and an Anti-Racism Café, which is a monthly virtual open discussion group. They ask to be laid down at the conclusion of these annual sessions. They further request establishment of a standing committee of the yearly meeting, to be called the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee would be self-selecting for the coming year, with Nominating Committee naming the clerk. Nominating Committee would be responsible for nominating members to the committee thereafter. The Racial Equity and Education Committee and Nominating Committee are jointly charged with proposing a structure for the Racial Equity and Education committee, including matters such as number of members, term limits, and the like, and bringing that proposal to Fall Continuing Committee, which is authorized to make decisions on these matters. Recommendations approved. Report accepted.

Minute 28 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee recommends the following:

1. Revising the description of the Reading Clerk so that it includes a three-year term limit, which would be renewable, and so that it adds a statement that some duties other than those listed may be requested by the Presiding Clerk. Approved.
2. Noting that the Epistle Committee is to be chosen by the Nominating Committee just prior to annual sessions, and that it serves only during sessions or until the epistle is complete for that year. Approved.
3. Adding to relevant places in the Handbook language stating that the Presiding Clerk determines the date, place, and format of Continuing Committee with input from others to avoid as many Quaker scheduling conflicts as possible, and moving that statement to the Continuing Committee section. Approved.

4. Moving the Handbook Committee description of Continuing Committee from the section on Standing Committees to the Organization section. Approved.
5. Changing the title of the section called “Groups” to “ILYM Common Interest Gatherings” and adding a description for the women and gender minorities gathering in that section. Approved.
6. Adding a section to the Handbook that describes those organizations with which ILYM is affiliated by virtue of appointing representatives to them, and noting when we first affiliated with them. Approved.

The Handbook Committee report was accepted.

Minute 29 Wil Brant noted that the Publications and Distribution Committee report is in the advance documents. All print projects are up to date. Initial copies of Faith and Practice have all been distributed, and an additional 150 copies are being printed. General content update on the ILYM website is being done as needed. Report accepted.

Minute 30 Minutes 27-29 were approved. The second session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIND SESSION, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 17, 2022

Minute 31 The day’s session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 32 The Clerk recognized and welcomed a visitor from outside of ILYM, Sam and Amy Clark from Gallup Monthly Meeting in NM. The following first-time attenders introduced themselves: Robin Harvey, Melissa Breed-Parks, and Hilarie Hunt from St. Louis and Trevor Brandt from 57th Street Meeting.

Minute 33 The Clerk reminded Friends about the Harassment Committee. Pam Timme has been added to the Epistle Committee, which completes the membership on that committee.

Minute 34 Reading Clerk Pam Kuhn referred to epistles from two yearly meetings and recommended them, along with the other epistles in the red binders at the front of the meetinghouse, to Friends. She then read a portion of a greeting to Illinois Yearly Meeting from Tim Gee, General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).

Minute 35 Colleen Reardon reported for the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee has continued to consider the legal opinion it has received on taxes on income and fair wage practices.

In speaking with the ILYM Caretaker, Judy Reese, it was discovered that there has been ambiguity with respect to her understanding of her status. As a result of the opinion of legal counsel and Judy’s own understanding of her role, her job description will be revised to be less extensive than previously, consisting of a list of volunteer responsibilities. She will continue to be provided with housing. A revised description of the caretaker position will be brought to Fall Continuing Committee for discernment and approval.

Personnel has also asked the Children's Religious Education Committee to consider two possible options with respect to the position of Children's Religious Education Coordinator. One option is for the coordinator to continue in the role of planning and implementing several events sponsored by ILYM, and thus be in the role of an independent contractor with compensation per project to be agreed upon and capped at the amount budgeted for the committee. The other option is for the Children's Religious Education Coordinator to be considered a part-time employee filling a broader role consistent with that of previous Religious Education Coordinators, in which case the coordinator would receive the same hourly wage as all other part-time staff with differentiation for the maximum number of hours allocated for the position. Report accepted.

Minute 36 Chris Goode offered the joint report from Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning and the Stewards. He began by thanking longtime MP&E stalwarts, including the late Neil Mesner and Bill and Alice Howenstine, who have now left the committee after many years of service. The fall and spring workdays each had about 16 workers, about half of whom were members of Clear Creek Meeting. Hired contractors accomplished various tasks during the year. The total expense was significantly higher than in most years and can be expected to increase again in the next year or two due to the many and varied material needs of the campus. The fact that money has been set aside for larger future maintenance projects has helped in this regard, and ILYM is asked to consider increasing the regular set-aside amount to ensure future maintenance of the campus. The large number of ongoing maintenance projects has meant that revision of the 10-year-old campus plan has taken a back seat in the recent past. MP&E intends to return to that item in the near future, and asks Friends to tell the committee about their hopes for the future of the campus. Report accepted.

Minute 37 Pam Kuhn reported for the Ad hoc Committee to Consider How the 2022 Annual Sessions Will Be Held. The committee proposed and set up a system whereby these sessions would be held in person with some virtual aspects, which is taking place at this time. The yearly meeting will need to evaluate this year's experiment and make decisions concerning how future annual sessions will be held, and if the meeting is unable to make this determination during sessions it will need to designate who will make that decision and how it will be made. The committee mentioned several issues to be considered with respect to various aspects of that decision. Having fulfilled its charge, the committee requested to be laid down. Request approved. Report accepted.

Minute 38 Minutes 31-37 were approved.

Minute 39 Kent Busse suggested that the meeting consider formation of a committee or working group to collect, process, and promote ideas for the celebration of ILYM's 150th anniversary in 2025. Several Friends expressed their willingness to serve on such a committee, provided they wouldn't have to serve as Clerk. Kent offered to serve as organizer of future efforts in this direction. The Meeting approved having him form a working group to prepare for the celebration of ILYM's 150th anniversary, with members and initial plans to be presented at Fall Continuing Committee.

Minute 40 Kent announced that the Chat Board that he demonstrated at Spring 2022 Continuing Committee is now operational. He has offered to manage the Chat Board, which can provide online collaboration for the sesquicentennial topic. The overall Chat Board is at ilym.kentbusse.com; the currently appealing portion for immediate use is [here](#). Various concerns were raised regarding this plan. Meeting will return to this issue for further discernment later in these sessions.

Minute 41 Minutes 39-40 were approved. The third session closed with waiting worship.